The Institute of the Americas (University College London) and the British Library invite applications for the fully-funded AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award PhD studentship: **Future Pasts: British-Caribbean Popular Culture and the Politics of History, 1948-1998.**

This project explores the articulation of ‘reconstructed pasts and anticipated futures’ (Scott, 2004) by the British Caribbean community in post-World War II/post-Windrush Britain. Engaging with recent scholarship on the Black Atlantic, urban cultures, and ‘Black globality’, the project will analyse the cultural forms that evolved within the British Caribbean community in the last half of the twentieth century. What histories of the Caribbean were imagined, reconstructed, and commemorated by the British Caribbean community after WWII? What social critiques and visions did these historical narratives produce? How was cultural production linked to political activism? How did the Caribbean political present impact on the cultural and historical narratives produced in the context of the diaspora?

The Caribbean community in Britain has made substantive contributions to cultural production in the decades since WW2. Caribbean migrants were involved in the creation of important publishing houses (Bogle L’Ouverture, New Beacon Books); newspapers and journals (*West Indian World, Race Today*); cultural activist organisations (the Caribbean Artists Movement, the International Book Fairs of Radical Black and Third World Books); and made significant interventions across a range of cultural media, including radio, theatre, music, carnival and the performing arts. These initiatives – and the networks of intellectuals, journalists, writers, artists, photographers and community organisers mobilized around them – occupy a critical place in the history of diasporic cultural production and political activism in the period, yet they remain curiously under-studied. While recent scholarship has begun to address the gap, there is much scope to analyse the significance and range of contributions these enterprises made to the political and cultural life of Caribbean and Black British communities, and to British society more widely.

The project offers a unique opportunity to draw on significant but underused resources in the British Library collections. These resources include, for example, newspapers, periodicals and journals such as *The Voice, South London Press, Race Today, Pan-Africa, Caribbean News, West Indian World,* and *West Indian Gazette*; the publications of Bogle L’Ouverture Publishing, Hansib Publications and New Beacon Press; the papers of significant artists and writers (such as Andrew Salkey); and the Sound Archive, which includes interviews with migrants, carnival music and performances, and recordings and interviews from Black underground radio stations from the 1980s and 1990s. The project also offers the potential to work with new materials such as the interviews and poetry from the ongoing Black British Poetry CDP project.

The theme of the studentship is intentionally broad, to allow students to tailor their specialism to suit their interests and experiences. Candidates with demonstrable experience and interests in Black British and/or Caribbean history are particularly encouraged to apply.

The successful candidate will profit from the academic and practical resources of both partner institutions, becoming a full participant in the international community of research students at UCL while also having the opportunity to gain first-hand professional experience of curatorial work at the British Library, as well as exposure to and training in digital humanities. Furthermore, they could potentially work with curators to produce or acquire new
materials for the British Library, such as interviews or archives of key artists and writers from the period under study. The student will participate in the Library's rich programme of public events, study days and student seminars in order to disseminate research findings to academic and non-academic audiences.

**PhD studentship award**

The AHRC studentship award pays for the student’s fees to study at University College London and also pays an annual Research Council maintenance grant. The AHRC stipend for 2017/18 is £14,553 plus £2,000 London Weighting (full-time, pro rata for part-time) plus an additional stipend payment of £550 for Collaborative Doctoral Students (TBC). Student Development Funding (equivalent to an additional six months of funding) is available to allow time for further training and skills development opportunities that are agreed as part of the PhD programme. [Further details on AHRC studentships](#).

In addition to this remuneration from the AHRC, the student can claim up to £1,000 in research-related travel expenses directly from the British Library, during each year of the award.

The successful holder of the studentship will be supervised by Dr. Kate Quinn at the Institute of the Americas, UCL and Dr. Elizabeth Cooper at the British Library. As well as intellectual support from research communities at both supervising institutions, the student will have access to desk space in a shared office with other PGR students at the Institute of the Americas, and shared office space at the British Library. The student will also benefit from access to the extensive seminar and events programmes hosted by both institutions.

This award is available on a +3 basis only, meaning that students should expect to have completed (or be close to completing) a Master’s degree by 1 September 2017, with sufficient research methods training to enable PhD study. Applicants should already have a 1st class or 2.i. undergraduate degree in History or a related humanities and social sciences subject (for example, area studies, modern languages, politics, or sociology).

For more information or to submit an application, please e-mail Dr. Kate Quinn (katherine.quinn@ucl.ac.uk).

**How to apply**

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm, Friday, **14 April 2017** and shortlisted candidates will be invited promptly for interviews held on **24 April 2017**. Applications and references by e-mail (to katherine.quinn@ucl.ac.uk) are strongly encouraged, but you may send materials by post to Dr. Kate Quinn, Institute of the Americas, UCL, Gower St, London W1E 6BT (to arrive before the advertised deadline).

Please submit a full academic CV (detailing your degrees, relevant skills, experience and awards/honours over no more than 2 A4 pages) alongside a statement of no more than 2 A4 pages, explaining how you would interpret the intellectual theme of the studentship in light of your research interests and experience.
Separately, you should ask for two academic references (ideally from your undergraduate dissertation tutor and/or MA supervisor) to be sent directly to Dr. Quinn by the same date at the same postal/e-mail address.

The successful candidate will be required to submit a full application to UCL for a place on the PhD programme. View details of UCL’s application process.

**Residency eligibility**

Residency Criteria – applicants are required to meet the RCUK residence criteria as follows:

- British nationals normally resident in the UK and Islands are eligible to apply.
- Also eligible are non-British nationals who have settled status AND have been resident in the UK for 3 years immediately prior to the date of the start of the course.
- EU nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years immediately prior to the date of start of the course are eligible.
- EEA and Swiss nationals (EEA migrant workers) should refer to the full RCUK guidelines to check eligibility and may be eligible for a fees only award.